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CHAL-0025
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20 May 1958

File
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Operations, DPS/DCI

THROUGH : Deputy Director, DPS/DCI

SUBJECT : U-2 Assignments

REFERENCE : Memorandum for SA/PD/DCI, dated 13 May 1958
(CHAL-0109)

1. I am returning herewith the referenced paper on recommended U-2 assignments which has been the subject of conversation between us. Confirming that conversation, the recommended numbers of U-2s to be deployed are approved but specific assignments should be amended as set forth below.

2. Since the reference was prepared by you, the decision has been made to curtail [] development and testing more rapidly than anticipated. This will enable at least one of the three aircraft currently disassembled and held for that activity to be returned within a few weeks to active inventory. At the same time I understand that the FOG is having difficulty meeting its commitments with the number of U-2s now available to it. Under the circumstances, I believe U-2 #347 should be returned promptly to SAC instead of being retained permanently in the CHALICE inventory, that #358 should be retained instead of being turned over to SAC in exchange for #347; and that glove tanks should be installed on #358 when the opportunity offers.

3. On the basis of your recommendations thus amended the assignment of aircraft to the overseas Detachments might work out as follows:

a. Retain the present inventory at Detachment C until completion of [] after which #358 would be ferried to Edwards and Glove tanks installed on it there.

b. For the present, retain at Detachment B #351, 352 and 355, all of which are already fitted for glove tanks.

c. Install glove tanks on #359 now at Edwards as well as on #358 after it is returned from [] On 1-15 July, #358

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and #359 would be ferried from Edwards to Adana to augment
Detachment B [REDACTED]

25X1C
25X1A
25X1A
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25X1A

4. The disposition of aircraft presently tied up in the [REDACTED]
program will be as follows: Measurements on #367 [REDACTED]
are expected to be completed no later than 24 May. Thereafter this
aircraft will be returned to Burbank to be stripped down and restored
to a clean configuration. #349 will be held for further measurements
[REDACTED] until about 7 June at which time it, too, will be moved
to Burbank to be stripped. These aircraft should, therefore, be returned
to the inventory in operational condition in late June and early July. It
may be impossible to remove the undercoating of fiberglass and its slight
extra weight may have some effect on performance. Accordingly, these
two aircraft should be considered as available primarily for training and
as test beds. If, however, flight testing after the removal of the [REDACTED]
covering indicates that their performance has been completely restored,
this restriction can be removed. The remaining aircraft in this program,
#344, has been readied to receive any new type of [REDACTED] covering we
may desire to test. It will remain disassembled at Burbank for the present.
It will probably be stripped and returned to operational status after completion
of the work on #349 and #367 if it is clear by that time that no further
[REDACTED] development or measurement is to be undertaken.

5. The foregoing arrangements will leave the following inventory at
Edwards:

a. In clean configuration - #343 which is equipped to receive the
"C" Camera and #360 which is instrumented for engine tests.

b. #349 and #367 after stripping of the [REDACTED] covering.

c. On loan from FOG #348.

Unless presently unforeseen requirements materialize either for operational
aircraft overseas or for flight testing at Edwards, there would seem to be
no need to retain five aircraft at Edwards. Accordingly, #348 should be
returned to FOG when the schedule of work at Edwards permits. The
planning date for this retransfer might be set provisionally as 1 July but
this should be reviewed in mid June.

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6. Subject to your comments on the above your office should advise Edwards of these plans and of the work to be performed on #359, later upon #358 and upon #367 and #349 when they can be released from [REDACTED]

25X1A

[REDACTED] You should also send any necessary instructions to the Detachments and make arrangements to have #358 ferried to Edwards when available and #358 and #59 ferried to Adana about 15 July.

[REDACTED]
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
SA/PD/DCI

SA/PD/DCI:RMB:djm

- 1-Dir Ops
- 2-Dep Dir
- 3-Dir D&P
- 4-Dir Mats
- 5-Dir Admin
- 6-SA/PD/DCI Subj.
- 7-SA/PD/DCI Chrono

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